Establishment of Ranichauri premises of Pant Nagar University as independent University

†1177. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ranichauri based premises of the Pant Nagar Agriculture University in Uttarakhand is being developed as an independent Agriculture, Forestry and Forest Science University; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance being provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Agriculture being a State subject, a State Agricultural University is established by the State Government. State Government of Uttarakhand *vide* an ordinance dated 27th December, 2006 established a separate university out of the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology. But the required Bill to this effect could not be taken up by the State Assembly and therefore, the ordinance became ineffective. A committee appointed by the State Government is now looking into the issue of establishment of a separate Horticulture & Forestry University at Ranichauri.

(b) Question does not arise.

Slow down in the agriculture sector

1178. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian agriculture is currently recording an anaemic growth of less than 2 per cent while the rest of the key indicators are progressing at a healthy 8-10 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that our annual loss from wastage and spoilage stemming from downright ignorance, inefficiency and apathy has been pegged at Rs. 55,000 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring down the staggering post harvest losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the sectoral percentage growth rates in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices in agriculture and allied sectors, mining, manufacturing, elecricity, construction and services during the last three years are given below:

Year	Agriculture & Allied Sectors (%)	Mining, manufacturing, electricity, construction (%)	Services (%)
2004-05	0.0	9.8	9.6
2005-06	6.0	9.6	9.8
2006-07	2.7	10.9	11.0

(b) and (c) As per the report of the Working Group on Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure and Policy required for Internal and External Trade for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 50,127 crore is estimated as avoidable loss on account of handling, transport and storage of farm produce.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.